



# East Kent Drinker

North East Kent CAMRA branch news

SUMMER 2026 ISSUE 7



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themagnetbroadstairs

## Welcome

Welcome dear reader,

Hello and thank you for picking up this, the latest edition of the East Kent Drinker Magazine. Our collaborative publication embraces the area of East Kent from the Isle of Sheppy, Canterbury, the coastal towns of Thanet and along the coast to Sandwich and Dover. In this edition we also feature some news from Maidstone and Mid Kent Branch and Medway Branch.

CAMRA's mission as ever is to connect Pubs, Pints and People. In our small way we hope to shine a light on our local beer scene: the breweries, drinking establishments and above all people; the hard-working brewers, publicans and their customers. In these difficult times, with financial and other factors threatening all corners of the industry, we need to come together to promote and preserve our Pubs, Pints and People.

Join us then to see what is happening in our special, often forgotten corner of the country. It is not all doom and gloom. The industry is constantly evolving and innovating in response to economic headwinds. New pubs and breweries are opening, following and leading new tastes and trends.

After all, there is nothing quite like meeting and interacting with fellow souls over a foaming glass of your particular fancy.

Cheers one and All.

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## Events diary

Follow the links or scan the code for the latest information:

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### KENT CAMRA BRANCHES:

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taphouse and Neopolitan style cuisine bar in the former Lloyds bank on Court Street. Whilst, cask ale is not on offer, the brewery has a good reputation for their beer, served from the tap. Open Mon – Sat 12:00 to 23:00 and Sunday 12:00 to 22:30

### Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay Branch

**The Royal Oak**, Blean Common, re-opened on 24th April under what is assumed to be a new tenancy granted to 'The Blean Pub Co Ltd'. However, the planning application to turn the pub car park into a car wash has not been withdrawn. Meanwhile Blean Parish Council have applied to Canterbury City Council to have the pub (and its car park) listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV).

**Rodneys Head**, Herne Bay, despite an undecided planning application dating back to 2024 to convert the former sports pub into 7 flats with a rear extension for a micro pub, building work appears to have started.

**The Eight Bells**, Canterbury, according to estate agents, Everard Cole this much missed local, which has been closed since the end of 2025, is back under offer. Sources tell us the proposed buyer is a publican and intends to run the pub as a free house.

**The Butchers Arms**, Herne, in an unexpected but happy turn of events pioneering pub owner, Martyn Hillier MBE has handed over the reins of this celebrated micro pub to local businessman and regular, Paul Monroe, who is also rumoured to be in the process of acquiring the rest of the building.



The Butchers Arms

**The Old Coach and Horses**, Harbledown, at the second time of asking Canterbury City Council have again refused Harbledown and Rough Common Parish Council's request to list the village pub as an ACV while owner and local developers, Paul Roberts and Paul Abbot have 2 planning applications to change the use of the pub and build a house in the garden at the same time as offering the pub for sale at an excessive price. As EKD goes to press it has been revealed that the pub will reopen in October under a tenancy agreement granted to Shailesh Dixit who also runs 'The Local' in Cockering Road, Chartham. ►

## Pub News

### Swale Branch

It seems to have been a steady couple of months since the last issue with not a great deal of change in the area. There are, however, a few snippets of information which you may or may not have heard.

On Sheppey, **The Highlander**, Minster Village. Timothy Taylor is currently on sale. Excellent condition and super value at only £3.0 a pint. There are also a new pair of balconies offering extensive views over Sheppey to the mainland. We understand, at the time of writing, that a snack bar is currently being set up. More news as we have it.

Fire damage has been caused to part of the beer garden and perimeter fencing at **The Heights of Alma** in Alma Street, Sheerness. Whilst the damage is not too severe to the pub garden, a number of adjoining gardens and property were severely impacted. No loss of trading was reported.



Fire at The Seaside Pub

June 1st. There was a fire at **The Seaside, PH** in Minster on Sheppey. The issue was at the rear of the premises but was quickly brought under control by the fire brigade. Again, trade has not been impacted at the pub.

Popular landlord, Neil 'Rock' Webb, has sold **The Pilots Rest** in Sheerness to Richard and Rose Carroll. Change over will be during the month of June to ensure a steady transition. **The Pilots Rest** is the current Swale branch Cider pub of the year so the new incumbents have big boots to fill.

In Iwade, the only village pub, **The Woolpack** had closed due to the previous licensee retiring. However, the new owners will be opening the pub at the end of June. The former head of **The Spyglass** and **Kettle** in Gillingham is set to take the helm and will offer both food and wet sales.

In Faversham, **The Bank**, is a new venture from craft brewer Time and Tide, has recently opened as a

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Sun 26th July - 4pm, C side Swindle (in the garden)

Sat 1st Aug - 7.30pm DEAF DEVILS (Esp) Arts Centre £10

Sat 8th Aug - 1.30pm - 9pm (6 Bands) CRASH OF MOONS FESTIVAL £25

Sun 9th Aug - 4pm, One Trick Donkey (Balkan Folk) In the garden

Sun 16th Aug - Charity Run (BEAT THE BELL) see beatthebell.uk for details + Live Music in the Afternoon at 4pm with Charlie Sherbourne and the Nightbirds (USA)

Sun 23rd Aug - 4pm, Alligator Cats (New Orleans Blues & Jazz) in the garden

Fri 28th Aug - 7.30pm, The Galileo 7 + Support. Arts Centre £10

Sun 30th Aug - 4pm, Lord Rochester (Rock n Roll) in the garden

Fri 11th Sep - 7.30pm THE METEORS (Pete's B'day) Limited tickets. Arts Centre

Sat 12th Sep - 7.30pm CHERRY (Album Launch) Arts Centre

Sun 13th Sep - 2pm. COUNTRY FESTIVAL, Florence somerville + Country Ties + more

Fri 18th Sep - 7.30pm SPIRITUAL BAT (Ita) + The Absolute Loves (Goth) £10

Sat 10th Oct - 7.30pm ANDERSON from CRAZYHEAD & the HEADONISTS, Arts Centre

Sun 11th Oct - 4pm FAROL NEGRA (Bazil) on a world tour, Top Band!!

Thu 15th Oct - 7.30pm Bullitz23 + Grumpy o Sheep (fra) Arts Centre

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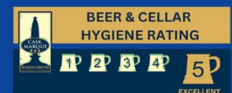
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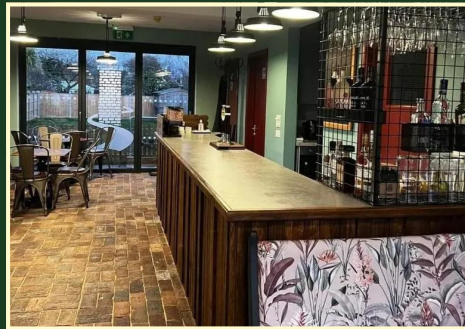
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## CONTACT

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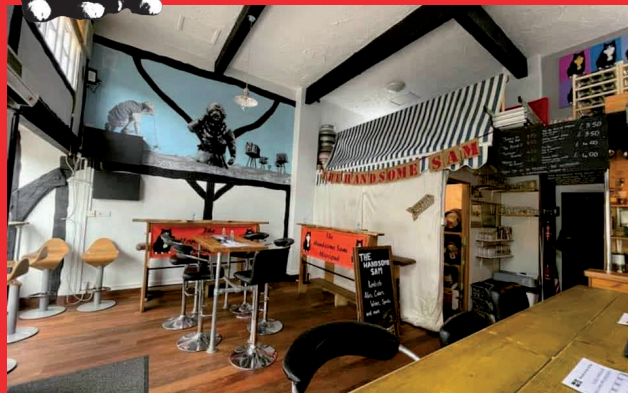
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The Handsome  
Sam Micropub -  
Whitstable



# THE HANDSOME SAM MICROPUB



**The Bouncing Barrel**, Herne Bay, temporarily closed by the landlord to carry out building work.

**The Kings Head**, Wincheap, Canterbury, closed since 2022 and sold in September 2025 the city's oldest continuous pub is still undergoing extensive repairs and refurbishment with scaffold now erected on the exterior.

## Thanet Branch

**The New Stag** in Monkton re-opened on 1 May after being closed for ten months. The New landlord is Gary Norton who has run a number of different pubs in Kent over the years. A Gadd's cask ale is available, though the future of real beer depends on demand.

There has been a slight loss of cask ale available in Minster-in-Thanet. It has been withdrawn from **The Bell Inn** and **The Monkton** and **Minster Royal British Legion Club**. Shepherd Neame's **The Crown Inn** at Sarre has also ceased selling cask ale

**Trigger's Broom Ale House** opened on Saturday 23 May in Broadstairs, a sweeping change to what was the Four Candles Alehouse with a new name and a new interior layout. It is run by Paul Wainwright and Albert Berry, who also run the **Albion Inn** which is twenty feet away on the other side of the road.



The Magnet

**The Magnet**, Broadstairs. Nicola Munn of the Magnet writes: What a year 2026 has been so far. Thanks to the support of our staff, locals, regulars and visitors we were runner up in Thanet CAMRA's Pub of the year competition making us traditional pub of

the year for five consecutive years. We also won two categories in Kent Life magazine Food & Drink awards 2025: Best Pub and Best for Dogs and are nominated again for 2026.

2026 is going to be a big year for music as we continue to support Broadstairs Blues Bash and Broadstairs Folk Week, which we will be a part of this year again with a stunning array of musicians. We are also organising the third year of Broadstairs Jazzfest which continues to grow each year with a diverse and talented line up of Jazz musicians and singers.

We have a marvellous array of local and guest breweries on offer from Iron Pier, Kent Brewery, Romney, Tonbridge and many more. We regularly stock real ciders from Biddenden, Broadoak & others.

We like to give back, raising money to support local and national charities including Thanet Disabled Riding Centre, RNLI, Breast Cancer Now! raising £150,000 so far. We also organised a charity day, raising awareness of Motor Neurone Disease and making over £1,200 for the charity.

## Dover Deal and Sandwich Branch

**DEAL:** **The Berry**, closed its doors for the last time. **The Eagle Tavern**, located next to Deal station, has added a hand pump serving Gadd's Number 5. **The Bar**, located at the top end of the High Street, has opened a small beer garden. **The Court Yard**, is to reopen at the beginning of July, following a fire in January. **The Queen Street Tap**, has also reopened, but no longer serves real ale.

**DOVER:** As a result of the sale of Beefeater & Brewers Fayre by Whitbread, **The Duke of York**, **Guston** and **The Plough, Church Hougham** have closed. **The Duke of York** may become a Toby Carvery. An application to change **The Malvern** to a shop has been approved.

**FOLKESTONE:** **Docker Brewery and Bakehouse** is opening a bakery, on the site of Dover's new creative centre and education campus on Bench Street. The bakery will be serving Docker beers. It's expected to open in August.

**SANDWICH:** **The Fleur de Lis** has reopened, following a long period of refurbishment, serving ales from the Wantsum brewery. **The Barbican Beer Garden**, situated on the banks of The Stour has opened, on the site of the former Quayside Bar & Grill.

**RURAL:** The Grade II listed **Fitzwalter Arms**, Goodnestone, which closed over a year ago, has reopened. A new micropub, **The Calf & a Half**, has opened in the rural hamlet of Goldstone, Ash offering ales from Ramsgate and their own bottled cider. Opening hours are from Friday to Sunday. A planning application for change of use to a care home has been submitted for **The Lighthouse**, Capel le Ferne. Plans include the retention of a micropub and community space. **The Dog & Duck**, Stourmouth, has reopened under new management.



The Calf & a Half



## Pub of the Year (POTY) Award

### Kent Area Pub of the Year 2026 Winners

**East Kent:** The Haywain, Bramling.

**Mid Kent:** The George, Bethersden.

**West Kent:** Nelson Arms, Tonbridge.



### Kent County Pub of the Year 2026 Winner

Nelson Arms, Tonbridge.



### Kent Club of the Year 2026 Winner

Marden Village Club, Marden.



### Kent Cider Pub of the Year 2026 Winner

Prince of Ales, Rainham.

### South East Regional Cider Pub of the Year 2026 Candidates

**Kent:** Prince of Ales, Rainham.

**Surrey:** Thames Side Brewery, Staines-upon-Thames

**Sussex:** Hopp Inn, Selsey.

### South East Regional Cider Pub of the Year Winner 2026

The Hopp Inn, Selsey.

### South East Regional Pub of the Year 2026 Candidates (Deadline 31st July).

**Kent:** Nelson Arms, Tonbridge.

**Surrey:** The Crown, Horsell.

**Sussex:** Fox Inn, Felpham.

### South East Regional Club of the Year 2026 Candidates (Deadline 31st July).

**Kent:** Marden Village Club, Marden

**Surrey:** Egham United Services Club, Egham

**Sussex:** Albatross Club (RAFA), Bexhill on Sea

## For the Record – New Inn Beer Festival

Arranging a 4-day Beer Festival, over the hottest Whitsun Bank Holiday ever, suggests that Katrina, landlady of the New Inn, prays to the right weather Gods. For a variety of reasons, it was definitely a record-breaking weekend.

**Record No.1:** 30 degrees Celsius – Phew, wot a scorcher!

According to the mega-brewery suits, beers like bitter and mild are old-fashioned. Nobody drinks these styles anymore. But: Stancill Barnsley Bitter and Oakham Midnight Mild flew out of the door!

**Record No.2.** No other beers sold as fast as these two, though

Gadds' East Kent IPA (which came in third) pressed them hard. According to the gloom merchants, pubs (especially those which are 'wet-led') are finished. Sooo off trend you know, so that no-one uses pubs like the New Inn.

Really? All weekend the pub/garden was packed. So much for the nay-sayers then.

**Record No.3.** A capacity audience, with plenty of new faces, alongside the regulars.

**Record No.4.** 38 firkins (2,736 pints) were sold over the weekend, which doesn't include local ciders and all the beers on offer in the pub on handpump.

The international mega brewers would have us believe that all beer drinkers only want their bland, Euro-trash lager. However, it appears that the suits are wrong. The records broken at the New Inn Beer Festival stand testament to the fact that discerning drinkers vote with their taste buds. Cheers to that!

Date for your diaries. The next New Inn Beer Festival takes place over the August Bank Holiday.

**Rory Kehoe**

CT13 0HX



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## Brewery News

In a constantly changing world here is glimpse into just some of what is happening with our treasured local Breweries.

### Canterbury Ales, Chartham



At Canterbury Ales we are strengthening our team and investing in the growth of the brewery. Steve is undertaking his Level 4 brewing qualification and his recent limited edition brew, Owens Court Gold, was fabulously well received by customers and drinkers alike. That one will be back again soon! We continue to progress with upgrading the brewery to support growing demand. We are proud to be working with both Chickenstock and A New Day festivals again this year, and to have supported the CAMRA charity beer tent at the recent Canterbury Cricket Week.

### Canterbury Brewers & Distillers, Canterbury



Foundry Stout at 4.1% is a new permanent addition to the cask beer range of: Foundry Torpedo 4.5%, Foundrymans Gold 4%, Streetlight Porter 5.8%. A second release of Streetlight Single Malt Whisky is almost here.

Distilled within Canterbury's ancient city walls and handcrafted entirely by Jon, Streetlight already took home Gold at the World Whiskies Awards. This year's release is even more limited – just 300 individually numbered bottles.



### Chislet Brewery, Chislet

The tap room is now up and running and open each Friday from 3 to 6pm

### Goody Ales, Herne



There is a great programme of events at the brewery. See [www.goodyales.co.uk/events](http://www.goodyales.co.uk/events) for a full list. The Hopmaster's quiz resumes in September. Firkins at Full Moon continues. Enjoy the beers in the brewery or in the lovely large field. Plenty of parking, and close to the bus routes. Goody Ales can be ordered for home delivery, see the website.

### Northdown Brewery, Margate



The acclaimed Squidly Diddy 5.8% IPA won Gold at SE 2025 Society of Independent Brewers and Associates (SIBA) awards in the cask IPA category. It then proceeded to win the Bronze award in the National SIBA Finals. A tremendous achievement.

There is an ever-changing list of cask and keg beers – always interesting.

The Tap Room is open every week from Wednesday to Sunday with Hotwood Pizzas available all weekend.

The Glastonbrewery beer, music and food event will be at the Tap Room on July 25th. MasterChef Professional finalist Mark O'Brien will bring his live fire smoked barbeque to the brewery for the event.

### Ramsgate Brewery, Ramsgate



Eddie Gadd, the founder and head brewer of Gadd's Ramsgate Brewery, has been named the Brewer of the Year 2026 by the All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group (APPBG).

The prestigious accolade was presented to Eddie during

the APPBG's annual beer awards dinner at Westminster on June 17th, an event attended by MPs, peers, and leading figures from across the British drinks sector. The award was decided by a panel including representatives from the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) and the Society of Independent Brewers and Associates (SIBA).

### Shepherd Neame, Faversham



Shepherd Neame has been named Supreme Champion Family Business of the Year at the National Family Business of the Year Awards 2026.

### Shivering Sands Brewery, Manston



Situated near Manston airfield, the brewery is a labour of love for Gary Gould.

The excellent core range of beers are: Spring Tide 3.8%, Maunsell Bitter 4.0%, Knock John Amber 4.5%, Estuary Porter 4.5%, Ribersborg Stout 4.7%.

The brewery taproom is open Friday afternoon and some Saturdays during the summer.

Eddie Gadd receiving his award



### Time & Tide Brewing, Eastry



Taproom opening hours:  
Weekdays 9:00 to 17:00, take away only

Friday 15:00 to 20:00, Saturday 12:00 – 20:00 with pizzas available  
New beers include Quayside 4.3% Pilsner

### Wantsum Brewery, St Nicholas at Wade



An exciting new collaboration between Wantsum and Moot Brewing, called the Invicta Brewing Project, intends to create a series of beers featuring all-Kent hops. The first brew will feature the Ernest hop.

The beers will be released to pubs/micros across Kent from 24th July. If successful, this will become an annual event and may involve other Kentish breweries.

Two new seasonal specials coming up in August: East v West Coast IPA's, each using the same malt and hops but with different yeast varieties to showcase the difference in styles.

The standard range of beers brewed are:

More's Head 3.7% Hoppy Bitter; 1381 3.8% Session IPA; Black Prince 3.9% Mild; Imperium 4.0% Best Bitter; Montgomery 4% American Pale Ale; Hurricane 4.5% New World IPA.

Wantsum re-badged some of their existing beers during the World Cup. 'Harrikane' and '4-2-2 Titude' have been seen around.

The Wantsum Brewery Taproom is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday all year round

### Brewing Industry Nationally

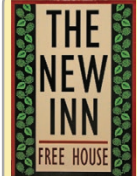
At the end of February, the Society of Independent Brewers and Associates (SIBA) reported that, on 1 January 2026, there were 1,578 breweries operating in the UK. This compares with 1,715 on 1 January 2025 and 1,828 on 1 January 2023. This demonstrates a net closure rate of almost three breweries a week. SIBA point out that levels of taxation and the restrictions of the tied house system are the main causes.



## Beer events in and around Kent

See [kent.camra.org.uk/diary](http://kent.camra.org.uk/diary) and local branch diaries for latest updates

|                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>East Kent Railway Beer &amp; Cider Festival 2026</b><br>East Kent Railway,<br>Shepherdswell/Eythorne,<br>Saturday, 29th – Monday,<br>31st August 2026 |  | <b>15th SPA Valley Railway Beer Festival 2026</b><br>Spa Valley Railway, Tunbridge Wells,<br>Thursday, 15th – Sunday, 18th<br>October 2026              |
|  | <b>East Malling Beer and Cider Festival 2026</b><br>East Malling Research Centre,<br>East Malling, Saturday,<br>5th September 2026                       |  | <b>Time &amp; Tide Rising Tide Craft Beer Festival 2026</b><br>Canterbury Cathedral Lodge,<br>Canterbury, Friday, 16th – Saturday,<br>17th October 2026 |
|  | <b>Faversham Hop Festival 2026 inc. CAMRA Beer Tent</b><br>Faversham Town Centre,<br>Saturday, 5th – Sunday, 6th<br>September 2026                       |  | <b>GADDS' Green Hop Launch</b><br>Ramsgate Brewery, Broadstairs,<br>Saturday 19th September 2026                                                        |
|                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                          |  | <b>Green Hop Festival</b><br>The Ramsgate Brewery & Taproom,<br>Broadstairs, Saturday, 10th October<br>2026                                             |



# THE NEW INN

HAVELOCK ST. CANTERBURY



Check us out on  
Real Ale Finder.com

The New Inn is a fully independent, friendly and welcoming free house offering an eclectic mix of well kept ales & ciders, whiskies from around the world and a large selection of gins.

**CANTERBURY AND DISTRICT CAMRA**  
**PUB OF THE YEAR 2017, 2018 & 2022**  
**7 REAL ALES**

**LOCAL CIDERS**  
**BEER GARDEN**

follow the New Inn on facebook.  
 @thenewinncantebury

**DON'T MISS OUR**  
**AUGUST BEER FESTIVAL**  
**OVER 20 REAL ALES**  
**CIDERS - MUSIC**  
**FRIDAY 28th - MONDAY 31st AUGUST**

# THE TWO HALVES MARGATE



**EST. 2015. GOOD CONVERSATION. SEA VIEW.**  
**CASK ALE - GIN - WINE - CIDER**



2 MARINE DRIVE,  
MARGATE CT9 1DH



MON - THU 3PM - 10PM  
 FRI - SUN 1PM - 10PM

BEER FROM £4  
 CIDER FROM £4.50  
 WINE FROM £5

5 MINUTE WALK FROM TRAIN STATION



## Dover, Deal and Sandwich CAMRA News

At the recent Branch Annual General Meeting, Branch Chair Martin Atkins stepped down. He was thanked for his sterling work for the branch over the past 30 years or so.

Martin became Chair shortly after joining the branch. In a long career he launched Channel Draught in 1999, becoming editor, producer and distributor for many years. He produced both branch news and original contributions under the pseudonym of Old Wort. His involvement in the White Cliffs Festival of Winter Ales, was remembered. He was invariably found in the Mayor's Parlour, nicknamed "Martin's Counting House".

Martin has been a long standing member of the Beery Boaters, whose social activities graced the pages of Channel Draught for many years.

Tony Wells, Pubs Officer and Webmaster, was voted in as the new Branch Chair.

### A Branch Social with a Surprise.

DDS Branch Thirst Thursdays are typical CAMRA socials – CAMRA members turn up, CAMRA members drink a few pints of real ale, CAMRA members go home.

However, on the 5th Thirst Thursday of 2026, the landlord had a pleasant surprise for us.

Graham Bevan, landlord of the Jackdaw Denton, hearing that Bristol Beer Factory Independence had been crowned CAMRA's Champion Beer of Britain arranged delivery of a mini keg to the pub. Although not a real ale, it gave the 12 CAMRA members who turned up a chance to try this yummy, award-winning ale.

Graham invited members to make a voluntary donation for their beer, raising a very welcome £90 for the Kent Air Ambulance.



Mark Atkins



Branch members at The Jackdaw, Denton



**gad** |gad|  
verb (gadded, gadding)  
[ intrans. ] informal  
go around from one place to  
another, in the pursuit of  
pleasure or entertainment...  
possibly in the search of  
fresh local beer:

'help out around the house and not  
be **gadding about** the town  
in the search of fresh kentish ale'



# GADDS'

The Ramsgate Brewery

[WWW.RAMSGATEBREWERY.CO.UK](http://WWW.RAMSGATEBREWERY.CO.UK)



## CAMRA names the Champion Beer of Britain 2026

The Champion Beer of Britain is the highest honour CAMRA can bestow upon a brewer, putting the winner firmly in both the UK-wide and international spotlight. The award is the most sought after and well-respected cask beer competition in the world.

The competition is fiercely independent with judging taking two years to complete. Each year kicks off with individual nominations from CAMRA members and volunteer tasting panels, then regional competitions. Every round of judging, including the final at Cambridge Beer Festival, uses a strict blind tasting policy.

### Supreme Champion



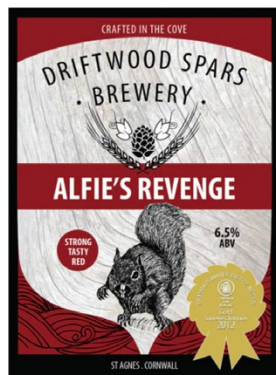
**Gold: The 2026 Champion is Independence (ABV 4.6%), a premium pale ale by Bristol Beer Factory**



### Runners-up:



**Silver: Wildcat (ABV 5.1%) from Cairngorm Brewery, Aviemore, Inverness-shire**



**Bronze: Alfie's Revenge (6.5%) from Driftwood Spars Brewery, St Agnes, Cornwall**

THE BEST CASK ALES REAL CIDERS WINES SPIRITS FRESH ROASTED COFFEE

# THE ROYSTON

## COFFEE & ALEHOUSE

**CAMRA SOUTH EAST REGIONAL PUB OF THE YEAR 2025**

**Branch Pub of the Year 2026**  
CAMRA  
THANET

**THE GOOD BEER GUIDE ★2026★ WE'RE IN IT**

**facebook**  
**instagram**  
**tripadvisor RANKED #1**

**2 THE BROADWAY, BROADSTAIRS KENT, CT10 2AD**  
(TURN RIGHT FROM THE TRAIN STATION AND WE'RE A 2 MINUTE WALK AWAY)

## The Good Beer Guide

Now in its 54th edition, CAMRA's Good Beer Guide is the UK's definitive guidebook to good pubs serving great real ale. It is completely independent, with listings refreshed and revised by CAMRA members. It features over 4,500 pubs, a unique brewery listing covering 1,700 breweries and 5,000 beers plus information about onsite brewery taprooms to help you track down the freshest possible pints right at the source.

Published 24th September, you can pre-order your copy of the Good Beer Guide 2027 now at [shop1.camra.org.uk/product/the-good-beer-guide-2027/](https://shop1.camra.org.uk/product/the-good-beer-guide-2027/) or <https://orlo.uk/Z6V6r>



## Green Hop Beers

Each September Kent welcomes the arrival of a new wave of Green Hop beers, one of the county's most distinctive and eagerly awaited seasonal traditions.

Unlike dried hops, green hops are used fresh, right off the hop vines, giving beers a distinct character and freshness quite different from conventionally brewed ales. These seasonal brews have grown over the past few decades into a keenly anticipated annual event, with most Kent breweries now producing at least one Green Hop beer — and many others across the country joining in.

Keep an eye out for these unique Kentish beers while they are around, before they vanish for another year.



## Looking for great pubs, clubs and beers?

Look no further than CAMRA's website — offering a single portal into a world of pubs, beer & brewing and cider as well as local and national campaigning activities.

At the core is a one-of-a-kind pub and beer finder tool. This enables you to search CAMRA's vast database of pubs, maintained by 145,000 members, to find pubs, view opening hours, mealtimes and beers. You can check on facilities and features offered to make your trip complete.

The CAMRA website also enables you to:

- Explore CAMRA's vibrant beer festivals.
- Shop for popular titles, including the renowned Good Beer Guide.
- Read selected articles from the online newspaper: What's Brewing.
- Find out all about CAMRA and its campaigning and social activities.
- Use the Learn & Discover website, to learn more about beer, brewing, cider making and brewing history.

[camra.org.uk](https://camra.org.uk)

And why not become a CAMRA member?

You'll open up a world of extra features, information and knowledge on the website. You can search Good Beer Guide (GBG) recommended pubs and plan itineraries. You can take part in beer scoring — helping to select the pubs that will feature in the next GBGs.

Becoming a CAMRA member pays for itself. Each year you'll receive £30 of real ale vouchers, benefit from free entry to CAMRA festivals, get member-exclusive offers and discounts from pubs and partners and receive their award-winning BEER magazine.

# Join CAMRA today

## Your support matters



Join with the direct debit form below, online at [join.camra.org.uk](https://join.camra.org.uk) or scan the QR code to get started.



Enter your details and complete the Direct Debit form below for a £2 repeating annual discount and a re-occurring membership.

Alternatively you can join online at [join.camra.org.uk](https://join.camra.org.uk) or call 0330 153 9924\* (Weekdays 9am to 5pm).

### Your details (\*all fields compulsory)

Title\* ..... Surname\* .....  
 Forename(s)\* .....  
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)\* .....  
 Address\* .....  
 .....  
 ..... Postcode\* .....  
 Email address\* .....  
 Daytime Tel .....  
 Partner's Details (if Joint Membership)

Title ..... Surname .....  
 Forename(s) .....  
 Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy) .....  
 Email address .....

We will process your data in accordance with our Privacy Policy which can be found at [camra.org.uk/privacy-policy](https://camra.org.uk/privacy-policy).  
 We will only send you communications you have consented to, see above tick boxes, and service-based communications. To manage your full set of communication preferences, please visit your online member account at [account.camra.org.uk](https://account.camra.org.uk).

### Direct Debit Instruction

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to:  
**Campaign for Real Ale Ltd. 230 Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 4LW**  
 Email: [membership@camra.org.uk](mailto:membership@camra.org.uk) Telephone: 0330 153 9924\*

Name(s) of Account Holder

Billing Address

Bank or Building Society Account Number

Branch Sort Code

Postcode

Payments will show as CAMRA Membership on your bank statement.

☐ I understand that CAMRA has partnered with Stripe, who collects Direct Debits on behalf of CAMRA and confirm that I am the account holder and the only person required to authorize debits from this account.

Signature

The data you provide will be processed in accordance with our privacy policy in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations.  
 \*Calls from landlines charged at standard national rates, cost may vary from mobile phones.

| Join today                                       | Direct Debit                    | Non DD                          |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Single Membership (UK)</b>                    | £34.00 <input type="checkbox"/> | £36.00 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Under 26 Membership                              | £25.50 <input type="checkbox"/> | £27.50 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Joint Membership</b><br>(At the same address) | £42.00 <input type="checkbox"/> | £44.00 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Joint Under 26 Membership                        | £33.50 <input type="checkbox"/> | £35.50 <input type="checkbox"/> |

Concessionary rates are available only for Under 26 Memberships

Please indicate whether you wish to receive our quarterly award winning magazine **BEER** by email OR post: ☐ Email ☐ Post

I wish to Opt-in to ☐ General Communications ☐ Branch Communications  
 We will ask for your consent in future communications and you can log-in to [account.camra.org.uk](https://account.camra.org.uk) and edit your membership preferences at any time.

I wish to join the Campaign for Real Ale, and agree to abide by the Memorandum and Articles of Association which can be found on our website.

Signed .....

Date ..... Applications will be processed within 21 days



This Guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer.

### The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit, Stripe will notify you 2 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Stripe to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by Stripe or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Stripe asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us. Setup of Direct Debit Instruction with Stripe on behalf of CAMRA.



Please post this direct debit form to our main office address: 230 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW



# Great Pubs of East Kent

*Historic buildings. Local character.  
Great value food & drink.*

REAL ALES

ALL HAIL  
THE ALE

JD WETHERSPOON

## Discover Your Local Wetherspoon

- The Saxon Shore
- The Peter Cushing
- The Thomas Ingoldsby
- The West Gate Inn
- The Leading Light
- The Mechanical Elephant 
- The Royal Victoria Pavilion
- The Eight Bells 
- The Sir Norman Wisdom
- The Golden Hope 
- The Belle & Lion
- The Samuel Peto 



From seaside landmarks to historic market towns, JD Wetherspoon pubs across East Kent offer award-winning real ales, guest beers, and great-value food – *all served in buildings full of local history.*

Find your local at [jdwetherspoon.com](http://jdwetherspoon.com)

*Opening times and offers vary by pub.*



## Historic London Pub Trail

Canterbury to London St Pancras takes fifty seven minutes by train: when you arrive you have some excellent pubs to choose from.

I picked six pubs on a circular route, all with interesting interior features and history and, of course, a great selection of local London and national cask ales.

**The Lamb** in Lamb's Conduit Street opened in 1720. In the late 19th century it was re-modelled with mahogany panelling, etched glass and mirrors. It is one of only three London pubs to still have snob screens around the bar. These were installed to prevent customers from being observed drinking by bar staff. The 19th century was a time of discernible class division. In the Victorian period actors and actresses drank here after their shows and there are many photographs of them lining the walls. Now, it is a popular pub serving Youngs and two other changing ales. It serves excellent food and has friendly, welcoming bar staff.

offers a wide selection of pizzas.

A five minute walk finds the **Queen's Larder**; a small pub on the corner of Queen's Square. Its history can be traced back to a deed dated 1710 stating an alehouse was at that site. It had no name and was run by various people including a stationer and a carpenter. The current name arrived in the latter part of the reign of King George III. He suffered from mental illness and was being treated at a clinic in Queen's Square. Charlotte, his queen, rented the cellar beneath the pub to store special delicacies for the King. The renaming to The Queen's Larder honoured her devotion to her husband. Now it is a popular pub with three changing ales and serves food.

On the route back to St Pancras is the **Queen's Head** in Acton Street. A Victorian Grade II listed pub from circa 1764, it was refurbished in 1889 and still retains the original tiled walls, mirrors and the central bowed window. From 2014 to 2017 there was a brewery in the basement. A free house, it offers three cask ales often from London breweries.

**The Scottish Stores** in Caledonian Road is close to Kings Cross. Built in 1900/01, it is Grade II listed. The name derives from the Scottish traders who, when arriving at King's Cross, hung their venison in the bar awaiting sale. It has typical 20th century architecture, a central bar, elaborate wooden carvings and stained glass. In the late 20th and early 21st century it had a seedy reputation but luckily was renovated and restored in 2015. It is now a popular independent family-owned free house.

The last pub is the community-owned **King Charles I** in Northdown Street. Saved in 2015, it now has an ACV (asset of community value) awarded in 2021. It is a small neo-Georgian pub which was rebuilt in 1937. It features original interwar panelling and a curved bar. A good selection of cask ales is available. No food is served, though you are welcome to bring in your own from local cafes and restaurants.

Six pubs in six hours, a great way to spend a very pleasant afternoon in London.

**Louise Coleman**



King Charles I



The Perseverance

**The Perseverance** is thirty seconds away. Originally called The Sun, this is a Grade II listed early 18th century corner pub, re-fronted in the 19th century. After various name changes it became Perseverance in 2005. It retains an original cast iron column by the bar. A free house, it serves regularly changing ales and

PURE KENTISH BEER



BLEANGATE BREWERY

**HERNE**  
ESTABLISHED 2012

**BREWING TRADITIONAL  
CASK ALES**

**USING ONLY KENTISH HOPS**



**SERVING LOCAL  
WINES, CIDERS AND SOFT DRINKS**



**SUPPORTING LOCAL  
MUSICIANS WITH REGULAR EVENTS**

**VISIT OUR BARS TO TASTE OUR HEAVENLY ALES**



'ANSWERING THE PRAYERS OF ALE DRINKERS EVERYWHERE'



## CELLARMANSHIP – Some beery terms and how to keep good beer

There are many variations on this topic, but I tried to keep this concise. Real ale is a living thing. It contains yeasts but can get contaminated with other microbes. It needs to be looked after carefully

Real ales are traditionally contained in a cask (avoid the term “barrel” as that’s a 36-gallon cask). The photos show a firkin (a 9-gallon cask) sitting on a stillage (the shelving). The cask is stabilised using wooden chocks, two at the front (hypotenuse downwards!) and one at the back.

At the brewery, the brewers will have sealed the cask with a keystone (the circular bit at the lower left) and a circular shive, the red bit at the top. The shive has a depression in the centre, the tut. This cask has been vented by knocking in the tut with a mallet and punch. Our preferred punch is an old car valve, but landlords often use a hard wood or plastic peg (a hard spile). A porous wooden peg called a soft spile has been pressed gently into the hole to allow excess CO<sub>2</sub> gas to escape – you can see the froth bubbling out through the spile.

**What are the steps the landlord needs to go through to serve the beer? There are some useful short YouTube videos, see below**

- The cask needs to be placed on the stillage, horizontally or very slightly tilted, fixed in position as above with three chocks, and left for some hours to settle a bit. If there is plenty of room in the cellar (usually there isn't) the casks can be left for days to develop flavour
- I recommend wiping the keystone and shive with food grade sterilising solution, as bits of them are going to be knocked into the beer.
- Venting/spiling: Use a mallet and the punch (with cloth round it as beer can be lively) to knock the tut into the cask. Knock the soft spile gently into the hole, as in the photo above, to allow the beer to breathe and to keep out microbes



- Leave the beer for around 24 hours to allow the sediment to settle and flavour to develop
- Tap the beer by knocking a tap in through the keystone. The photo below shows beer with a tap for serving simply by gravity – this is popular in micropubs and beer festivals. Most other pubs will use taps which connect to beer lines and a handpump
- Loosen the spile a bit while serving, or the beer won't be able to come out through the tap. Check the beer is clear (unless it's meant to be hazy) and that it tastes good
- Use a hard spile to seal the cask when the beer is not being served, e.g overnight. This keeps microbes out and stops too much CO<sub>2</sub> escaping, so the beer doesn't go flat
- Tilting (stooping) the cask – don't move the cask at all, until it's about a third full. Then use the chock at the back to tilt about 12°. Be very gentle so the sediment isn't disturbed
- Serve the beer within 48–72 hours or it may go off
- When the cask is empty, seal the shive with a spile, and the keystone with a cork bung

Landlords often ask us how to get into the *Good Beer Guide*. The answer: they must serve consistently well-kept beer.

I asked a couple of successful landlords what they thought the most important factors were. In no particular order:

- Clean, tidy cellar and equipment
- Correct temperature, 11–13°C
- Clean the beer lines (the pipes which carry beer from cask to handpump) ideally every time you change a cask. Line-cleaning fluid must be used at least weekly.
- Use a hard spile overnight to maintain condition
- Serve the beer within 48–72 hours of venting, and check that it is still OK

Gill Keay

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxsJAE\\_DZLU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxsJAE_DZLU)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlxgJ6HI6vQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlxgJ6HI6vQ)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7mzvZUA\\_0U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7mzvZUA_0U)

Patrick O'Neill (2020) *Cellarmanship* (7th Ed)

ISBN 978–1–852249–365–3. Only £5 to CAMRA members





## Local CAMRA Online

You can only successfully manage a national organisation with over 220 volunteer-run branches if you provide the right support centrally, and CAMRA is very good at that. We have access to training and learning resources, national pub data, equipment for beer festivals and, as in the case of this article, a branch website builder, appropriately named BeerEngine.

In 2025 the Canterbury, Herne Bay & Whitstable branch elected to set up a website to complement its existing social media accounts – Instagram, Facebook and Meetup. Once configured and personalised to suit the branch's needs, whilst retaining the national CAMRA 'corporate' appearance (in our case picking the colour theme, some menus choices and the banner photo of Canterbury Cathedral at night) BeerEngine provided us with a powerful content management system (CMS) that we can easily populate with items of our choice, in particular news items and event details, and keep updated.

Social media are particularly useful for publicising our many and varied social events, but the website additionally gives us a platform for highlighting and recording in more detail things close to the heart of CAMRA, for example recording changes to local licensed premises and keeping pub information up-to-date (Local Pub Guide) for interested visitors. We have included explanations of beer scoring and how a pub gets selected for the Good Beer Guide and Pub of the Year, and a Members' area where members can download branch meeting minutes and other documents.

The national CAMRA site has a learning section and links to that site are in the branch menu. We don't want to duplicate the national site's content but one thing we have included is a panel with a link to the national site, to help people who are perhaps new to real ale choose the taste profile and beer style that suits them.

We also work with neighbouring branches, so often include links to their own events in our Branch Diary section.

The site is at [canterbury.camra.org.uk](http://canterbury.camra.org.uk) – bookmark it now!



Most CAMRA branches have websites, for the local branches in East Kent they can be found at:

**Thanet:** <https://thanet.camra.org.uk/>  
**Dover, Deal & Sandwich:** <https://dds.camra.org.uk/>  
**Swale:** <https://swale.camra.org.uk/>

Peter Riley

### CAMRA Members: Do you want to know what's going on in your branch?

Many branches send out Branch Emails to let their members know what's going on: Events; Campaigns; Beer Festivals; Trips to other branches and so on. If you want to know what's going on you need to make sure you have opted in to receive Branch Emails (other options are available). Go to <https://account.camra.org.uk>, and check your Marketing Preferences.

You can also opt-in to receive Branch Emails from neighbouring branches. Just click on the Branches option and add those branches you are interested in hearing from.



## Shivering Sands Brewery & Taproom Unit 91 Maple Leaf Business Park Manston, Kent CT12 5GD

FRIDAY 12 NOON TILL 6PM

SATURDAY 12 NOON TILL 5PM



### OUR CASK RANGE ..... SO FAR

- Golden Sands IPA 4.5%
- Search Light IPA 4.2%
- Maunsell Bitter 4%
- Ribersborg Stout 4.7%
- Estuary Porter 4.1%
- Spring Tide UPA 3.8%
- Knock John Amber Ale 3.8%
- Warden Black IPA 5.2%

Prepare to be captivated by the well crafted finest Kentish ales. Brewed all on site by a father and two dedicated sons, we look forward to your visit

FOR UP TO DATE OPENING HOURS PLEASE VISIT US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM  
OR CALL - 07805061343



## Award winning beers from The Waterworks Brewery



Our **Pissoir Porter** has recently won three awards including a

**CAMRA Silver Medal for London & South East England** (Stouts & Porters)



We serve our full range of beers in the taproom along with a local lager, ciders, wines, gins and soft drinks. There is also live music every Sunday 3-5pm



### TAPROOM OPENING TIMES

Fri 3-7pm, Sat 2-7pm  
Sun 1-5pm

### BREWERY & TAPROOM

The Old Dairy, Rye Road, Playden,  
(opposite the old Peace & Plenty) East Sussex TN31 7UL

## Serving 10 local ales & 18 local ciders



Along with our own beers, we serve a good range of ales and ciders. We also have a selection of wines, gins and soft drinks and award winning Scotch eggs and pork pies.



### RYE'S MICROPUB

Tower Street, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7AT Tel: 01797 224110

### PUB OPENING TIMES

Mon - Fri from 2pm  
Sat & Sun from 12pm



[www.ryewaterworks.co.uk](http://www.ryewaterworks.co.uk)

## Why Beer Bottles Should Be Brown

Beer has come a long way from the days of wooden casks and leather flacons, and the question of how best to store it has challenged people for centuries. Before pasteurisation, beer spoiled quickly, so it had to be brewed often and consumed fast. The idea of bottling beer was developed by a monk. He filled a wine bottle from a cask for a picnic, forgot about it, and later found the beer still fresh. That was the beginning of bottled beer.

Sealing the bottle was the next hurdle. Brewers experimented with wax and cork before wire closures and eventually today's crown caps became standard. Early bottles were short and bellshaped, often clothed with wires like mason jars. At that time all bottled beer contained yeast, which continued fermenting as it would in a cask. As the yeast consumed remaining sugars in the beer, it produced carbon dioxide that made the drink fizzy.

Before paper labels, most breweries embossed their names directly into the glass. Some examples are engraved and some have the names in the glass. Over time, bottles evolved into the taller, slimmer shapes familiar today.

The longstanding use of brown or green glass has a scientific basis. Sunlight

contains ultraviolet rays that degrade proteins in beer, reducing shelf life and affecting flavour. Refrigeration and pasteurisation later made light protection less critical, but tradition kept dark glass in widespread use. In recent decades some breweries adopted clear bottles to showcase the beer's colour.

Another explanation for brown bottles lies in glassmaking history. Producing crystal clear glass was difficult before industrial techniques were developed, so coloured glass was the practical default. Tradition again played its part, and brown remains the standard. A few beers—such as Old Speckled Hen and Badger Tanglefoot—are marketed in clear bottles, though dark beers almost never are. Wychwood Hobgoblin briefly tried clear glass before returning to brown.

By law all bottled beers must display sell-by dates. In 2009 I acquired some Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Ales from 1977 with damaged labels. These were strong beers, around 6%. As they were of limited collectable value I decided to drink them, each was excellent. Yes, they

were in dark glass bottles but seeming evidence that sell-by dates may be meaningless for properly stored beer.

For the technically minded: exposure to light breaks down isohumulones in hops into free radicals that react with sulphur containing proteins, forming

3methyl2butene1thiol—the compound responsible for the "lightstruck" or bad egg smell. Damage can occur within minutes in sunlight, and fluorescent lighting can have the same effect over a longer period. It is suggested that Mexicans began adding lime wedges to beer to mask the smell and taste of sun-damaged beer.

Steve Bury





## As time goes by

Sitting in the pub downing the last drop to catch that bus; but where is the pub clock? Now, this is stepping back in time a little, no pun intended. Some years ago, many breweries produced advertising in various forms, some of which have become collectable. Most notable might be the **Guinness** John Gilroy range of animals, posters, flying wall toucans, ashtrays, and lamps. However, they also produced advertising wall clocks.

My original introduction to electric advertising clocks was at number 56, my grandma's house where a KLG sparkplug advert sat silently. The glass electric clock, rather unlike the large clockwork item sitting alongside, always caught my eye. I was a youngster and at first didn't realise it had to be "plugged in". It told the correct time but only twice a day. It was the one thing I wanted when gran's house was cleared; and I still have that clock.

I can't recall when I bought the first brewery item, a Guinness clock, glass with illuminated engraved characters. I do however remember where I

bought the second Guinness clock, I had taken my car to Pipecraft in Essex to have an exhaust made. I sat in the car when they took it on the lift, peering out of the window, there it was, right at the top of the wall. A sum of money for the tea fund changed hands and the clock went home, much cheaper than the custom exhaust.



Guinness clocks



Mitchells &amp; Butlers clock and Tavern clock

Some of you may recall a similar item at the Black Lion in Lynsted where the writing on the face looked Dutch but I believe it was Afrikaans. Chris wouldn't sell it.

Then there was the closing wool shop with the **Paton and Baldwins** clock. I rue the day I let the condom clock, adorning a Canterbury hairdresser's window, slip through my fingers. It was too expensive. I digress, these are all powered by Smiths seetric motors though I'm not sure that Smiths Clocks manufactured the whole item. Later models offered by Guinness and others were Perspex with mains voltage motors. Many other businesses offered these clocks; there is one currently in auction for **Mitchell & Butlers**, and a "Treat yourself to a Tavern"; which I think came from **H. & G. Simonds Ltd** of Reading. Pub wall clocks could advertise whisky or cigarettes. The **Craven A** red and silver box type clock became quite popular and now rare. I only have a broken one.

These clocks were probably not exclusive to Smiths as Temco and Ferranti had a thriving domestic electric clock following. Unfortunately, even some restorers think it is OK to switch the mains original clock for a modern quartz battery unit. To me that is not restoration.

I know Fremlins had glass advertising signs but I've yet to come across a clock of the same style, or of any other local brewery. Perhaps you know better, do let me know. My collection does not only comprise advertising items but all synchronous electric clocks, glass, bakelite, metal and wooden; from Art Deco 1930s and including Westclox and Metamec 1960s models as well as a couple of Goblins!

**Brina Snipson**



### THE HAYWAIN

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[thehaywain@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thehaywain@hotmail.co.uk)

<http://www.thehaywainbramling.co.uk>

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## Trigger's Broom Ale House, Broadstairs

On Saturday 23 May, a sweeping change was made to what was the Four Candles Alehouse, reopening with a new name and a new interior layout.

But let us first recall the Four Candles – owned by Mike Beaumont and opened in 2012, it was the twelfth micropub in the UK and the third in Thanet. After a couple of years of selling other people's beers, Mike began to brew his own at the pub with paid assistance from brewer Paul Wenham-Jones, plus some advice from Eddie Gadd of Ramsgate Brewery.

One time he had to ask JD Wetherspoon to desist from using a logo of crossed fork handles on one of their pub's social media pages. Mike had created this logo for his business, was using it and had officially trademarked it, Wetherspoon did comply with the request and apologised.

Having acquired the Conqueror Alehouse in

Ramsgate just in time for Covid, Mike was then forced to relinquish it in late 2023 as post-Covid trade was too slow in picking-up. During this time, it sold only Four Candles beers. The Conqueror has since re-opened under new management but still has much of the external signage that Mike put up referencing his William the Conqueror French roots.

Beer wise, Mike produced mainly cask beer with a brief period of bottled beers. He used simple descriptive names, sometimes claiming that no beer was ever brewed more than once. Names included; Pecan Porter, Citra Session, Stout, Pacific IPA, Waimea IPA, Green Hop IPA, Target Bitter, Juniper Rye, Wheat IPA, Best Bitter plus many others. The ABVs were almost all between 3.5% and 5%. A Four Candles beer was the first to run out at the Planet Thanet Beer Festival three years running. The pub was in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2025 and 2026. All in all, what a great achievement.

All this said, the pub is now called Trigger's Broom and is run by Paul Wainwright and Albert Berry, who also run the Albion Inn which is twenty feet away on the other side of the road. Incidentally, Mike Beaumont also stepped in once as licensee for the Albion Inn while some legal difficulties were ironed out under previous management there. Mike didn't want the Albion to close, lose business impetus and then be converted to a house.

Today Trigger's Broom is not a brewpub though it does continue to be of modest size with its large windows, including a newly revealed window, that give it a sense of space. It has a mix of high and regular tables including some outdoor seating to the front. Due to limits of floor space only assistance dogs are allowed inside. It has two hand pumps for cask ale plus some racked casks with cold water fed cooling jackets by the bar.

Trigger's Broom, 1 Sowell Street, St Peters, Broadstairs, CT10 2AT – just under half a mile from Broadstairs Station.

Julian Stone



## Seated one day at the bar...

...discussing the meaning of life, and beer.... mainly beer; when the chap sitting next to me suddenly pronounced; 'CAMRA members. The most boring people in the world. All beards and beer-guts droning on about real ale.'

'Right' I said, 'But you are sitting in a Kentish free house enjoying affordable pints of good cask beer from small breweries around the country. None of which would have been possible without CAMRA.'

My new friend laughed cynically, 'So, that was then, what is the point of CAMRA today?'

It was a fair challenge. Rather than point out my distinct lack of both beard and beergut, I finished my pint and wandered off to think about what I should have said.

Formed 55 years ago, CAMRA surprisingly quickly changed the face of British pubs and brewing. Cask ale and handpumps that were then rapidly disappearing can now be found in even the remotest corners of the land. Beer quality, most certainly not a given when CAMRA started, is now driven by competition for a Good Beer Guide listing or a Pub of the Year achievement, along with industry-run quality accreditation, inspired and supported by CAMRA.

Guide listings, awards and beer festivals still matter. They incentivise pubs and breweries to maintain high standards. A CAMRA award still announces to drinkers that a pub takes its beer seriously.

Despite all this activity we continue to lose pubs at a disturbing rate. Escalating costs, business rates, energy bills and staff costs have forced many pubs into closure, as unfortunately we often report in these pages. Without the campaigning work of CAMRA's local branches we would have lost a great many more. Local branches are often the first to raise the alarm when a pub is threatened and the first to help communities organise to protect their local amenity. CAMRA is the only national body consistently lobbying for stronger planning protections and was crucial in securing Asset of Community Value status for pubs and closing loopholes that allowed conversions without planning permission.

Those local branches and the thousands of active members around the country are CAMRA's greatest strength. No trade body or government department has any similar level of grassroots organisation. The members survey pubs, organise beer festivals, support local communities and work to keep local pubs and beer choice alive. This is not nostalgia. Many of our pubs and breweries still exist because local CAMRA members cared enough to act. And, fortunately, continue to act persistently and often thanklessly.

My new friend may cling to the tired CAMRA stereotype. I will join him for another pint sometime soon and help him understand that, if he wishes to continue to enjoy his pubs and choices of beer, he really needs to raise a glass and offer a word of thanks to those boring CAMRA members.

Denis Palmer





# The Pub Gardens of Swale

Kent may be known as the Garden of England with its many lovely, famous estates, but its pub gardens rarely get the same attention. When was the last time you visited a pub and simply enjoyed relaxing in its garden? We will take a brief tour of some notable town pubs in Swale and see what makes their gardens special.

We begin on the sun-kissed Isle of Sheppey. In a quiet corner of Marine Town, Sheerness, just a stone's throw from the seafront, sits **The Heights of Alma**. Tucked at the end of a row of Victorian terraces and named after events of the Crimean War, as are many adjoining streets, the pub welcomes both locals and visitors in its traditional bars. To the rear lies a lovely, secluded garden, large enough for a dozen tables or more, with lawns, a patio and a colourful mix of shrubs and flowering plants. A great feature is 'The Shack at the Back', a cookhouse serving excellent, sensibly priced pub grub. With its homely, welcoming atmosphere, it's well worth checking the pub's website (<https://heightsofalmasheppey.co.uk/>) or Facebook page for opening times.

From Sheppey we head to **The Elephant**. 31 The Mall, Faversham, long regarded as a bastion



The Elephant

of excellent cask ale. In the front of the building, you are greeted with a display of traditional signage, colourful planters, wooden casks converted into tables and colourful stained and etched glass. But the real surprise lies beyond the bar. Through a door in the righthand corner you enter a covered courtyard adorned with vintage memorabilia, leading to a garden room great for gatherings and full of beer history. The main garden is a blaze of colour, with a small lawn, tables, a raised paved patio and a central fishpond and fountain. Benches, vines and an array of flora and fauna create a space that Kew Gardens would be proud of. It's a lovely spot to while away the hours—just remember to nip back to the bar for another pint.

In Sittingbourne, look down the driveway of **The Red Lion** on the High Street and you'll find a charming beer garden right in the heart of town. This historic inn has been popular for generations, and its greenery-surrounded cobbled courtyard offers a peaceful, relaxed ambience, whether you are meeting up for a casual drink or looking to unwind after a stressful day. With plenty of tables and a varied choice of ale and lager, it's a real summer suntrap.

Ospringe, between Norton Ash and Faversham, is a place that sees much traffic mostly just passing through—but it's worth stopping at **The Ship Inn** and **Cow Shed** on the corner of Ospringe Street and Ospringe Road. This 16th-century building, operated by the Lamba family since 2022, has been made into a garden wonderland. The addition of The Cow Shed has transformed the place. From the rear of the



Heights of Alma

pub you step out onto lush lawns, patios and seating areas designed with entertaining in mind. In 2026 the pub was a finalist in the British Pub Awards for its renowned food offering. With car parking, a sunny aspect, outdoor mood lighting and a lively atmosphere—especially when the firepit is lit—this is another garden well worth visiting.

Back in Faversham town, **The Market Tavern** at 42 East Street boasts what is probably the largest beer garden in the town. During the summer months you may even see the Kentish game of Bat and Trap being played—only a handful of pubs still host this traditional game, and this is one of the best places to enjoy it. Run by Tim and Lacey Stowell, who are also licensees of **The Bear** in the town centre, the pub is a community-focused local. In addition to Bat and Trap there is a walled perimeter garden, grassy and paved areas, with plenty of bench seating. It's also close to the town's recreation ground



The Ship Inn and Cow Shed

if you fancy extending your visit in the town.

Over in Queenborough, **The Rose Inn**, 80 High Street, offers a long garden adjacent to the town's historic church. With a tented patio, lawns and garden seating, it's a pleasant space to while away the hours. Trees and atmospheric lighting make it especially appealing in the evening, and the covered event stage hosts regular live acts.

These are just a handful of the borough's town pub gardens—there are many more waiting to be explored. So, when the sun is shining, why not set aside a day to discover a few of them for yourself?

**Next edition:** We'll be on the lookout around the Swale countryside and taking a further look at what is on offer. Look out for future editions of *East Kent Drinker*.

**John Sissons**



Serving beers from local brewers and a selection of wines and spirits

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# Ramsgate has the World's finest Shelters

In 1939 Ramsgate was ready for the war, it had built nearly three miles of underground air raid precaution ARP shelters. With entrances all around the town, these tunnels saved thousands of lives in the many raids that followed. The worst was 24th August 1940 when over 500 bombs were dropped on the town in a 5-minute period, killing 31 people of all ages.

It is possible to visit these shelters from the former railway tunnel located in the East Cliff, just along from the harbour. The museum is free to visit and offers four regular tours, where you are guided underground into the tunnels to experience what it was like over 85 years ago. One special tour takes you above ground where you walk the route of the Tunnels. See [www.ramsgatetunnels.org](http://www.ramsgatetunnels.org) for further information.

Having done this tour, I thought it might be interesting to see what pubs are still open along the route. Of those that are, some are in the Good Beer Guide or are contenders for inclusion.

Start at the West Cliff on the Paragon (1- Churchill Tavern). At the top of the stairs from the sailor's church



on the harbour, follow Addington Street (2-Queen Charlotte, 3-The Falstaff) to the end and turn left into West Cliff Road (4-Bedford Inn, 5- Artillery Arms). Then along Crescent Road, Vale Square, and Marlborough Road, then turn right into North Avenue, left into Elms Avenue, briefly crossing into Cannon Road diagonally through the car park to Paradise. Cross the High Street (6-The Pub, 7- Rose of England). Then turn into Eagle Hill, cross Chatham Street (8- The East Kent Arms) into Chatham Place. Turn right on to Boundary Road, follow the hill down to the lights, (branching off to 9- Elephant and Castle, 10- Montefiore Arms, 11- The Honeysuckle Inn). From Boundary Road go up Victoria Road to the end where you see the Granville Theatre at the top of the East Cliff. Go down the 120 Augusta Steps and you are at the Ramsgate Tunnels entrance 100 yards from the harbour (12- Royal Victoria Pavilion) and all the pubs on Harbour Parade and the centre of Ramsgate.

All the pubs included are located within 100 yards of the ARP tunnel. Check on CAMRA's Pub Finder for more information on the individual establishments, [camra.org.uk/pubs](http://camra.org.uk/pubs)

Paul Briggs



# Maidstone & Mid Kent CAMRA News

**Lower Bell, Aylesford:** Licensee Spencer has negotiated a free of tie lease from Greene King and will be able to sell non-GK beers from May.

**Dirty Habit, Hollingbourne:** Reopened early May following an extensive restoration and updating after the disastrous fire in October 2022.

**Park Gate, Hollingbourne:** Draught Bass, rare in this area, has proved to be an extremely popular guest beer here.

**Chequers, Laddingford:** Charles and Tracey of this popular, community focussed pub. have announced that they will retire in September after 30 years. Scheduled events will continue. Harvey's Sussex Best is on sale.

**Cherry Tree, Maidstone:** Has had a large-scale refit courtesy of returning licensee Paul Wratten. Harvey's Sussex Best is on sale.

**Coach House, Maidstone:** The new licensees, Jess and Shane, have restored cask ale with Fuller's London Pride. Open daily 12-12.

**First & Last, Maidstone:** Recently redecorated, this wedge-shaped building with an intriguing history serves Timothy Taylor Boltmaker or Landlord.

**Stag, Maidstone:** Closed by owners, pub group Stonegate, who are seeking new management for this normally busy town-centre pub

**Malling Jug, West Malling:** Offers discounted £4 pints noon to 4pm Mon-Thurs. Excellent value for quality of their beers.

**Boathouse, Yalding:** Closed in January for refit. New licenses should be in place by now.

**Social Events diary:**  
[mmk.camra.org.uk/diary](http://mmk.camra.org.uk/diary)



# Medway CAMRA News

Who'd a Thought It, Rochester is Medway CAMRA's Pub of the Year 2026. Congratulations to Liz and her team.

Runner-up was last year's winner, **The Prince of Ales** in Rainham, which also scooped the Medway Cider Pub of the Year award

**The Kings Arms** in Upper Upnor was placed third.

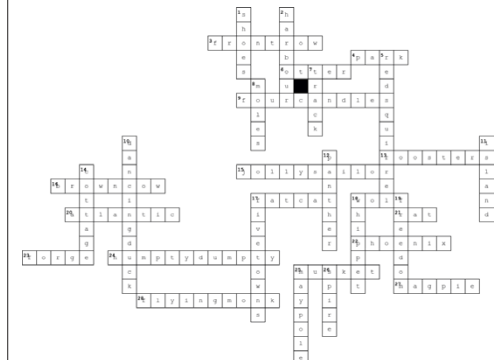
**The Prince of Ales** recently showcased their tenth anniversary beer festival from the 12th to 15th March with ten real ales on offer.

The owners of **The Angel** in Rainham have announced they are closing the pub months after stepping back from their sister pub the Rising Sun in Rochester. The Rising Sun has new tenants but no longer serves real ale.

**The Three Sisters** in Rainham has been voted by readers of Kent Messenger Online as one of the top ten pubs in the newspaper's Kent and Medway food and drink awards 2026

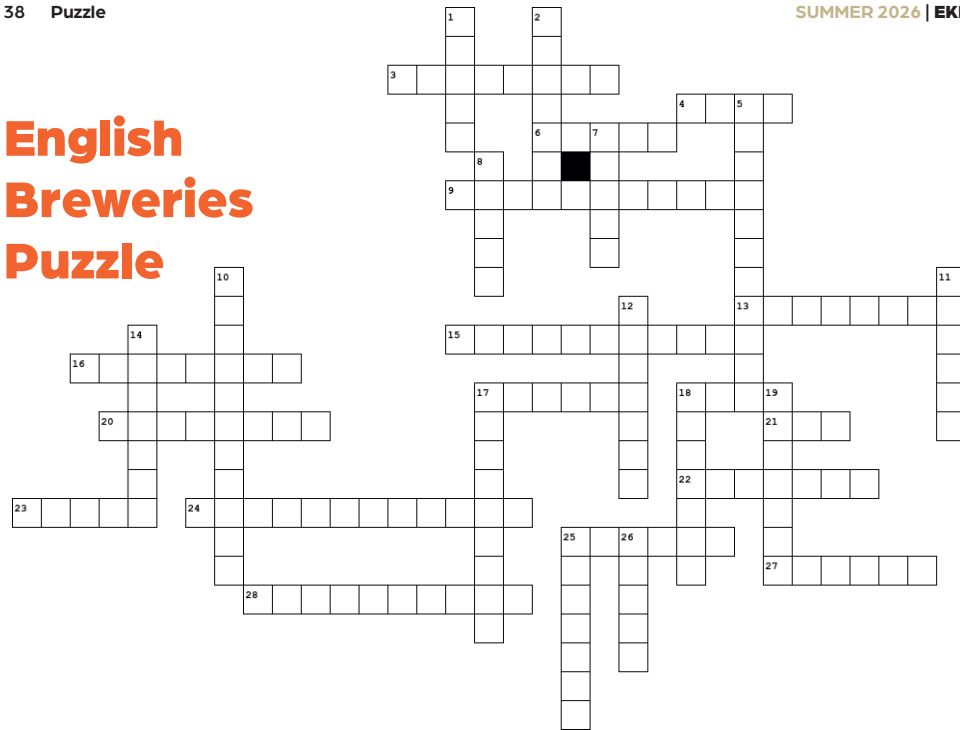
**Kae Mendham**

(Kae, a long term, very active CAMRA member sadly passed away earlier this year)





# English Breweries Puzzle



## ACROSS

3. Two props and a hooker? (Cheshire: 5,3)
4. Hyde, Richmond or Regents, for example? (London: 4)
6. An aquatic mammal (Devon: 5)
9. Handles for forks? (Kent: 4,7)
13. A brewery run by cockerels? (North Yorkshire: 8)
15. A happy Jack Tar! (East Yorkshire: 5,6)
16. How now? (North Yorkshire: 5,3)
17. Garfield, for example? (Norfolk: 3,3)
18. A wild, howling dog- or a Gladiator? (Norfolk: 4)
20. The sea between GB and the USA (Cornwall: 8)
21. Black, Brown- or Roland? (West Yorkshire: 3)
22. A brewery risen from the ashes? (Manchester: 7)
23. Where you make beer- or horseshoes? (Devon: 5)
24. Hopefully this brewery won't have a great fall! (Norfolk: 6,6)
25. An old-fashioned firearm. (Kent, 6)
27. A black and white bird- beloved of NUFC supporters? (Nottinghamshire: 6)
28. Friar Tuck goes airborne? (Wiltshire: 6,4)

## DOWN

1. Worn on the feet! (Herefordshire: 5)
2. A place for ships to take shelter.(Cornwall: 7)
5. A now rare mammal, pushed out by its grey American cousins! (Hertfordshire: 3,9)
7. A place for trains, runners or racing cars! (Manchester: 5)
8. Underground mammals known as gentlemen in black velvet waistcoats. (Wiltshire: 5)
10. Donald joins Daisy, Huey, Dewey and Louie at the disco? (Derbyshire: 7,4)
11. Like Sheppey, for example? (Isle of Wight: 6)
12. A black- or even Pink- big cat! (Norfolk: 7)
14. A small house? (Somerset: 7)
17. Sittingbourne, Faversham, Margate, Ashford and Sheerness, for example? (West Yorkshire: 4,5)
18. A brewery for a fast dog, smaller than a greyhound? (West Yorkshire: 7)
19. Out of prison at last! (Staffordshire: 7)
25. A brewery to dance around in the springtime? (Nottinghamshire: 7)
26. The tall, pointed part of a church (Derbyshire: 5)

## SOLUTION

Found on the previous page (37)

If the answer includes the word 'Brewery' (or similar) this is omitted. The County offers a further clue.

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# SHEPHERD NEAME CREEKSIDE



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With hints of orange and peach, it is the perfect pint to enjoy all year round, with a light, refreshing finish.